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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

JOHN R. BAZA  
Division Director

6952

November 16, 2015

John Spencer  
Simplot Phosphates, LLC  
9401 North Highway 191  
Vernal, Utah 84078

Subject: Approval of Amended Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations, Simplot Phosphates, LLC., Vernal Phosphate Mine, M/047/0007, County, Utah

Dear Mr. Spencer:

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining accepts the Vegetation Monitoring Report received October 30, 2015, for inclusion in the Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations (Notice). A copy of the report, stamped accepted, is enclosed for inclusion in your copy of the Notice. This report was submitted in response to a Division Directive. Acceptance of the report does not necessarily relate to changes in operations at the mine.

This report documents no significant differences between treatments for overall vegetation establishment between treatments used in the test plots and that all treatments met the revegetation standard for reclamation. However, the Division asks that before you select a particular treatment scenario for the final reclamation plan for the tailings facility, you consider which treatment provided the greatest amount of shrub cover, and that you select that scenario for the final plan. This request is based on the difficulties encountered in establishing shrubs in some of the reclaimed areas.

After examining the results, please amend the Notice and include the scenario that provided the greatest shrub cover as the final revegetation plan for the tailings facility.

Thank you for providing the report. Please call Lynn Kunzler at 801-538-5310 if you have any questions in this regard.

Sincerely,

Paul B. Baker,  
Minerals Program Manager

PBB: lk: eb

Enclosure: Vegetation report stamped accepted

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